

Notice

Date: November 17, 2019

To: General Authorities; General Officers; Area Seventies;
and the following in selected-language units: Stake,
Mission, and District Presidents; Bishops and Branch
Presidents; Members of Ward and Stake Councils;
Parents of Children and Youth

From: Priesthood and Family Department (1-801-240-2134)

Subject: Children and Youth—Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

In a November 17, 2019, Face to Face broadcast, Elder Gerrit W. Gong and the General Officers shared additional details about a new effort titled Children and Youth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This effort replaces all existing activity and achievement programs. It focuses on helping each child and youth follow the example of the Savior. The information shared in the Face to Face broadcast is detailed in the enclosure to this notice.

Children and youth (those turning 8–18 in 2020), supported by their parents and leaders, will implement the home-centered and Church-supported Children and Youth effort on January 1, 2020, in units where the following languages are spoken: ASL, Cantonese, Cebuano, English, French, German, Hiligaynon, Ilokano, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Tongan.

The Face to Face event introduced a new song for children, available at childrenandyouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. The event also introduced a new song and video featuring the 2020 youth theme. These and other youth theme resources are now available in English and additional languages at youth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

Children and Youth—Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

Enclosure to the November 17, 2019, notice

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Children and Youth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a new effort to help the rising generation strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and progress along the covenant path as they meet life's challenges. It focuses on helping each child and youth follow the example of the Savior and grow in a balanced way spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see Luke 2:52).

Beginning on January 1, 2020, Children and Youth replaces all existing activity and achievement programs. Those who wish to complete Duty to God, Faith in God, and Personal Progress should complete the requirements before January 1, 2020. If children or youth need additional time, awards will be available until March 1, 2020. Children and Youth also replaces Scouting on January 1, 2020, in areas where the Church sponsored Scouting units.

The new Children and Youth effort includes three areas of focus:

- Gospel learning
- Service and activities
- Personal development

Two types of emblems are included in this effort: emblems of belonging, which every child and youth will receive the year he or she turns 8, 12, and 18; and emblems of achievement, which youth receive by striving to follow the Savior through meeting certain basic expectations (see "Achievement" later in this document).

This effort is centered in the home and supported at church. Families determine how best to apply these areas of focus at home.

Overview for Children

Beginning in January of the year they turn eight, children are invited to participate in Children and Youth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Here's what it will look like for them.



At the beginning of each year, the bishop may visit the Primary class of the children turning eight and welcome them to Children and Youth. During the discussion, he gives each child two emblems: a ring and a picture of the temple. Each child also receives a copy of [Personal Development: Children's Guidebook](#). Parents and members of the Primary presidency may attend this visit.

As part of Children and Youth, children will participate in the following:

Gospel Learning

At home, children study the scriptures on their own and with their families. [Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families](#) has been prepared to help in such study. At church, children build upon what they've learned at home as they study the scriptures with their Primary class. Lesson materials are found in [Come, Follow Me—For Primary](#).

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Service and Activities

Children participate in service and activities with their families. In addition, children (beginning in the year they turn 8) also meet regularly for Primary activities. Generally, children are organized by age-groups, and boys and girls meet separately—although they may combine for certain activities or in locations with few children. Primary activities are generally held two to four times per month. If distance and costs, time constraints, safety, and other circumstances make this schedule impractical, Primary activities may be held less frequently.

Working with the bishopric, the Primary presidency recommends members to be called as Primary activity leaders. These leaders can be Primary teachers or other members of the ward or branch. At least two leaders attend each activity. Leaders can be two women, two men, or a married couple. Leaders complete the training at protectingchildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

Activity leaders plan service and activities that are fun and engaging and that build testimonies, strengthen families, and foster personal growth. Activities should be balanced among the four areas of growth: spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual.

Overnight camps are not held for children. However, local leaders may choose to hold day camps for Primary children participating in Children and Youth.

Service and activity ideas for home and church are available at childrenandyouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org and, beginning in 2020, on the Gospel Living app.

Personal Development

Children set goals to grow spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually. Parents and, where needed, leaders help children discover, plan, act on, and reflect on their individually selected goals. Then children discover and set new ones. Children may work on as many goals as they want, but they are encouraged to work on at least one goal in each of the four areas each year. Children, supported by parents, might choose to use *Personal Development: Children's Guidebook* to set and record goals.

Goal ideas are available in the guidebook, at childrenandyouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org, and, beginning in 2020, on the Gospel Living app.

Overview for Youth

Beginning in January of the year they turn 12, youth move to Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Young Women classes. Here's what Children and Youth will look like for them.



Young men will receive a ring from their quorum presidency. Young women will receive a medallion from their class presidency. In addition, during an interview, the bishop will give each youth a holder for a temple recommend. Each youth also receives a copy of *Personal Development: Youth Guidebook*.

As part of Children and Youth, youth will participate in the following:

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Gospel Learning

At home, youth study the scriptures on their own and with their families. *Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families* has been prepared to help in such study. At church, youth build upon what they've learned at home and in seminary as they study with their Sunday School class and Aaronic Priesthood quorum or Young Women class. Lesson materials are found in *Come, Follow Me—For Sunday School* and *Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes*.

Service and Activities

Youth participate in service and activities with their families. In addition, youth also meet regularly (usually weekly) for Young Women activities, Aaronic Priesthood quorum activities, and youth activities (when combined). If distance and costs, time constraints, safety, and other circumstances make this schedule impractical, they may meet less often but should generally meet at least monthly. For more information, see “Service and Activity Guidelines for Youth” at [Aaronic Priesthood Quorums.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/aaronic-priesthood-quorums) and [YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/young-women).

An adviser and, as needed, specialists are called for each quorum and class in addition to members of the bishopric and Young Women presidency so that at least two adult leaders are present at each activity. Adult leaders complete the training at [protectingchildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/protecting-children).

Quorum and class presidencies, with the assistance of their adult leaders, plan and implement service and activities that are fun and engaging and that build testimonies, strengthen families, and foster personal growth. Activities should be balanced among the four areas of growth: spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual.

In addition to regular youth activities, youth may also participate in:

- For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conferences (see [fsy.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/fsy)).
- Youth conference or trek in the years an FSY conference is not held.
- Annual Young Women camps and Aaronic Priesthood quorum camps.
- Additional overnight camps and activities, where feasible.

For additional information, see [Aaronic Priesthood Quorums.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/aaronic-priesthood-quorums) and [YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/young-women). Service and activity ideas are available at [childrenandyouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/children-and-youth) and, beginning in 2020, on the Gospel Living app.

Personal Development

Youth set goals to grow spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually. Parents and, where needed, leaders may help youth discover, plan, act on, and reflect on individually selected goals. Youth are encouraged to complete at least two goals in each of the four areas each year. Youth might choose to use *Personal Development: Youth Guidebook* or the Gospel Living app to set and record goals.

Goal ideas are available in the guidebook, at [childrenandyouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/children-and-youth), and, beginning in 2020, on the Gospel Living app.

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At the beginning of the year they turn 18, young men will receive an oil vial they can use after they are ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood. Young women will receive a pendant that can be added to the chain with their medallion.

Achievement



During the year a young man or young woman turns 18, he or she (with parents if desired) also has the opportunity to meet with the bishop to discuss his or her progress. In this setting, the bishop will present a certificate from the First Presidency and the Children and Youth crystal, which contains an image of the Savior. He gives these emblems of achievement to youth who are progressing in

becoming more like the Savior by currently striving to:

- Study the scriptures and pray daily.
- Be worthy of a limited-use temple recommend.
- Participate in Sabbath meetings, quorum or class work, and seminary.
- Work on goals in each area of growth.
- Serve others in a personally significant way, which could include a service project.

New converts, those who have not been actively participating in Children and Youth or the Church, and those who are not members of the Church may receive the emblems of achievement the year they turn 18 if they are *currently focused* on the patterns of discipleship outlined above.

In coming months, the certificate can be printed from lcr.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Below are answers to questions children, youth, parents, and leaders may have about this new effort. However, because this effort is meant to be adapted to individuals, many questions will be answered through seeking personal inspiration.

General questions

What should determine the focus of service and activities?

Service and activities should be balanced across the four areas of growth (spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual) suggested by Luke 2:52 and grow out of the needs and interests of individuals, families, quorums, classes, and Primary activity groups. They can introduce children and youth to new experiences, teach them life skills, and help them fulfill their priesthood duties and covenant responsibilities. Where it is helpful, an activity may occasionally support an individual, family, or group goal.

Do parents and leaders track goals set by youth and children?

No. Parents, supported by leaders when needed, could ask children and youth what they are working on and how they can help, but adults are not responsible for keeping track of progress. Children and youth may wish to keep some goals private. Children and youth can use their guidebook, the Gospel Living app, or another approach that works best for them to set goals and reflect on or record progress. Children may need help in recording and remembering goals. Parents generally provide such help.

Do youth interviews continue?

Yes. The bishop interviews youth annually beginning in the year they turn 12. The bishop (beginning in the year youth turn 16) or one of his counselors (for younger youth) generally interviews youth six months later. (See *Handbook 1*, 7.1.7.) In addition, the Young Women president may take a greater role in counseling with young women regarding matters that do not require a common judge and that do not involve abuse. During these conversations, adult leaders teach youth about becoming disciples of the Savior. They might encourage youth in their goals and offer any needed help.

What is the Gospel Living app?

The Gospel Living app, designed for youth and adults and available beginning in 2020, has tools for setting goals, making plans, tracking progress, and recording thoughts and impressions. In addition, the app provides inspirational articles, activity and goal ideas, and messaging and sharing among family members, quorums, and classes. The app is not necessary for participation in Children and Youth, and it is not limited to those who are participating in Children and Youth.

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Family-centered questions

How do I help my child or youth get started with personal development?

Parents can help a child or youth identify how he or she wants to grow. They might start by talking about how to seek and receive revelation and praying together for guidance. The resources in the guidebooks and the Gospel Living app can help identify needs and interests. For more information, see [*Children and Youth: An Introductory Guide for Parents and Leaders*](#).

What if my child loses interest or discovers that a goal is too hard or not a good fit?

When children and youth discover that a goal is uninteresting, too hard, or not a good fit, sometimes the right approach will be to keep trying. Other times it will be appropriate for the child or youth to adjust a goal or choose a replacement. Being actively engaged in following the Savior's example of growth is more important than accomplishing specific goals.

What do I do when my son or daughter completes a goal?

Parents can help their son or daughter celebrate growth and reflect and record his or her thoughts by answering questions like these: How have I grown? How has my goal helped me grow closer to the Savior? Parents can encourage children and youth to decide how they will use what they are learning to help others.

Is it acceptable to have family goals in addition to the personal goals set by children and youth?

Yes. Parents might help their children and youth choose goals according to the needs of their family.

Should children or youth always share goals with parents or leaders?

No. Some goals are private. Adults can demonstrate their willingness to help while allowing the child or youth to keep some goals between himself or herself and the Lord.

Can adults and younger children participate in Children and Youth?

As individuals and as families, adults and younger children can participate and use the resources for gospel learning, service and activities, and personal development at home. Adults and younger children generally will not participate in Church-sponsored activities related to Children and Youth and will not receive Children and Youth emblems.

Church-support questions

Some children and youth who are not Church members attend our activities. Can they participate in the Children and Youth effort?

Of course. Children and youth should invite their friends to participate in gospel learning, service and activities, and personal development. And leaders—including youth quorum and class presidencies—should work closely with parents of these children and youth to help them

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understand the effort and determine how they and their children would like to be involved.

Is it acceptable to have quorum, class, or group goals in addition to the personal goals set by children and youth?

Yes. Children and youth, working with their leaders, may choose goals according to the needs of their quorum or class.

Should an annual meeting be held?

Bishops may hold an annual meeting for youth and their parents near the beginning of each year. It can be held at the ward or stake level and can be held for young men and young women separately or together. It should be planned and led by the assistants to the bishop in the priests quorum and the presidency of the oldest Young Women class. Youth turning 12 during the year may receive their emblems during this meeting.

It is not necessary to hold an annual meeting for children. The bishop may visit the Primary class of children who will turn eight during the year.

What adjustments to callings are needed?

As a help to parents, Children and Youth will be supported at church by the Primary presidency (for children) and by the bishopric and the Young Women presidency (for youth). These leaders will be assisted by quorum and class presidencies and by adults called as quorum or class advisers and specialists (for more information about the roles of advisers and specialists, see *Handbook 2*, 8.3.4; 8.3.6; 10.3.4; and 10.3.7). Primary activity leaders may be called.

With the introduction of Children and Youth, and to align with adjustments announced at October 2019 general conference, the following callings will be discontinued on January 1, 2020. These leaders should be released on or before January 1 with gratitude for their service:

- From Primary: Primary Activity Days leaders, Primary Activity Days assistant leaders (these leaders could be called as Primary activity leaders).
- From Young Women: Beehive, Mia Maid, and Laurel advisers (these leaders could be called as advisers or specialists as needed to support the new Young Women classes); Personal Progress leaders.
- From Aaronic Priesthood quorums: Ward Young Men president, counselors, secretary, and assistant advisers (these leaders could be called as Aaronic Priesthood quorum advisers or specialists).
- From Scouting (where applicable): BSA executive officer, chartered organization representative, Scouting committee chair, Scouting committee members, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmasters, 11-year-old Scout leaders, Cub Scout committee chair, Cub Scout committee members, Cubmaster, assistant Cubmasters, den leaders, assistant den leaders (some of these leaders could be called as quorum advisers or specialists or as Primary activity leaders).

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Questions for Primary

Do children need to memorize the Articles of Faith as part of Children and Youth?

Memorizing the Articles of Faith is encouraged but not required.

Should all children receive a Children and Youth ring in 2020?

Every child who will turn 8 to 11 during 2020 should receive the new Children and Youth ring in 2020. Each year thereafter, children receive their ring at the beginning of the year they turn 8 or as they enter the program.

The current green CTR ring will remain a part of Primary. When children begin the CTR 4 class, the Primary presidency or their Primary teacher will give them a green CTR ring.

Should we still hold the Temple and Priesthood Preparation meeting?

Yes. The Primary presidency, under the direction of the bishopric, holds the Temple and Priesthood Preparation meeting for girls and boys in the Valiant 10 class before the January in which they move to Young Women classes and Aaronic Priesthood quorums. For more information, see *Handbook 2*, 11.5.5.

Questions for Young Women

For additional information about organizational changes that have been announced for Young Women, see YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org and Handbook 2, chapter 10.

Do we recite the Young Women theme?

Yes. Young women begin their Sunday Young Women meetings by reciting the new theme, previously announced in general conference and available at YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

Do we still have the Young Women values, motto, torch logo, New Beginnings, and Young Women in Excellence?

No. Beginning on January 1, 2020, these elements of the Young Women program will be replaced by the Children and Youth effort. Both New Beginnings and Young Women in Excellence will be replaced by an annual Children and Youth meeting held for youth.

Do we still hold Young Women camp every year?

Yes. For more information, see the [Young Women Camp Guide](#).

What principles do we follow in organizing Young Women classes?

Under the direction of the bishop, Young Women presidencies seek inspiration as they organize classes according to the following principles:

- Classes are organized by age-group, and young women progress between classes in January of the year they turn the age of the next class. An age-group is all young women who will turn an

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age during a calendar year.

- Class sizes are determined to best give young women leadership opportunities. A president, two counselors, and a secretary should be called for each class. Ideally, classes also include young women to whom the presidency can minister.

For additional details, see *Handbook 2*, chapter 10, and the notice dated October 5, 2019.

Questions for Aaronic Priesthood quorums

For additional information about organizational changes that have been announced for Aaronic Priesthood quorums, see [AaronicPriesthoodQuorums.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) and *Handbook 2*, chapter 8.

Do we recite the Aaronic Priesthood quorum theme?

Young men are encouraged to begin their Sunday quorum meetings by reciting the new Aaronic Priesthood quorum theme, which reads:

“I am a beloved son of God, and He has a work for me to do.

“With all my heart, might, mind, and strength, I will love God, keep my covenants, and use His priesthood to serve others, beginning in my own home.

“As I strive to serve, exercise faith, repent, and improve each day, I will qualify to receive temple blessings and the enduring joy of the gospel.

“I will prepare to become a diligent missionary, loyal husband, and loving father by being a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

“I will help prepare the world for the Savior’s return by inviting all to come unto Christ and receive the blessings of His Atonement.”

Do we hold camp for Aaronic Priesthood quorums every year?

Yes. For more information, see the [Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Camp Guide](#).

Questions about recognition, emblems, and imagery

How do units order and receive the emblems to start the Children and Youth effort?

A form will be sent to units by the end of 2019.

Primary presidencies, Young Women presidencies, and Aaronic Priesthood quorum advisers should gather for the ward or branch clerk quantities and sizes needed for children and youth turning 8–18 in 2020. Clerks should order at store.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/childrenandyouth or through their local distribution center. Costs for the Children and Youth crystal will be charged to units. For 2020, all other emblems will be paid for by the Church. In 2021 and beyond, units will order needed emblems and materials through the regular curriculum ordering process. They will be paid for with local unit funds.

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How can the Children and Youth logo, associated imagery, and themes be used?

The logo and other visual elements of Children and Youth will be available in 2020. They may be used for personal, noncommercial use. Individuals and families may use the logo and imagery within their homes to support the Children and Youth program. Stakes, wards, and branches may use the logo and imagery for Church activities and purposes. To request permission to use the logo and imagery in other settings, visit permissions.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

Youth and leaders may use the Aaronic Priesthood quorum theme and the Young Women theme for personal or Church purposes. Commercial use of the themes is not permitted.

Can local units create their own requirements and awards for Children and Youth?

No. Stakes, wards, and branches should not establish requirements for children and youth to earn local awards.

How soon can youth receive the emblems of achievement?

The emblems of achievement are a culminating celebration of an individual's development through Children and Youth. Ideally, youth receive these emblems when they graduate from secondary school, as they prepare to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood or enter Relief Society, or before they move away from home, if that occurs earlier than age 18.

For more information

- July 15, 2019, notice—[Children and Youth Update](#)
- July 19, 2019, notice—[For the Strength of Youth \(FSY\) Conferences in the United States and Canada](#)
- August 1, 2019, notice—[Youth Theme for 2020](#)
- September 12, 2019, notice—[Additional Information about For the Strength of Youth \(FSY\) Conferences in the United States and Canada](#)
- September 29, 2019—[Children and Youth: A Special Broadcast Featuring President M. Russell Ballard](#)
- October 5, 2019, First Presidency letter—[Strengthening Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes](#)
- November 17, 2019—[Children and Youth: A Face to Face Event with Elder Gerrit W. Gong](#)
- [Children and Youth: An Introductory Guide for Parents and Leaders](#)
- ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org